

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, IEA

SUBJECT: SLT CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON PROPOSED IEA WORK PROGRAM
IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

1. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO PASS CHAIRMAN'S NOTE (PARA 2
BELOW: TO IEA SECRETARIAT.
2. SLT CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM IN NUCLEAR
ENERGY.
AS REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD AT ITS SEPTEMBER
MEETING, THE SLT REVIEWED THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK IN
NUCLEAR ENERGY DRAFTED BY THE SECRETARIAT (IEA/GB(77)42).
THE SLT AGREED THAT THE WORK PROGRAM OUTLINED BY THE
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SECRETARIAT FOR THE IEA IN THE NUCLEAR AREA WAS ACCEPTABLE
AND INCLUDED THE IMPORTANT ISSUES AFFECTING THE ABILITY
OF NUCLEAR POWER TO FULFILL ITS NECESSARY ROLE IN MEETING
THE OVERALL ENERGY OBJECTIVES OF THE IEA.
A FEW DELEGATIONS, WHILE EXPRESSING THEIR BELIEF THAT
ALL OF THE SIX TASKS DESCRIBED IN ANNEX II OF THE
SECRETARIAT PAPER SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY UNDERTAKEN BY THE

IEA, SUGGESTED THAT THE IEA PROCEED PROMPTLY WITH TASK 1, 5 AND 6 BUT WAIT UNTIL INFCE HAS MADE FURTHER PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING ITS WORK PROGRAM BEFORE EMBARKING ON TASKS 2, 3 AND 4. OTHER DELEGATIONS INDICATED THAT THE WORK DESCRIBED IN THE LATTER THREE TASKS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A

VIABLE NUCLEAR WORK PROGRAM FOR THE IEA. THE SLT RECOGNIZED THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON PRIORITIES WOULD BE MADE BY THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP.

SOME DELEGATIONS FELT THAT THE EXAMPLES OF MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE EXAMINED TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM RAW MATERIAL (THE THREE TIRES UNDER TASK 2) SHOULD BE DELETED, ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED THAT THE MEASURES DESCRIBED, AS WELL AS OTHERS, WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP. OTHER DELEGATIONS BELIEVED THAT THIS DESCRIPTION WAS USEFULLY INCLUDED IN TASK 2.

THE SLT ALSO DISCUSSED THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK UNDER TASK 6 AND FELT THAT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE:

"TASK 6 - WORK WILL BE INITIATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTING ACTION IF, AFTER APPROPRIATE ENCOURAGEMENT BY IEA,
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RELATED EFFORTS IN OTHER BODIES ARE INADEQUATE TO THE PROBLEMS OR EVOLVING ENERGY SITUATION SHOULD MAKE SUCH ACTION NECESSARY:

A. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACK END OF THE FUEL CYCLE IN THE CONTEXT OF DIFFERING NATIONAL POLICIES AND SITUATIONS OF IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

B. DEFINITION OF A MULTINATIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR LONG TERM DISPOSITION OF SPENT FUEL AND HIGH LEVEL WASTE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE COLLABORATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES UNDER VARYING GEOPHYSICAL CONDITIONS.
UNQUOTE.

DURING THIS DISCUSSION, THE SLT CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL BY THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION CONTAINED IN IEA/SLT (77)113 FOR AN URGENT EFFORT TO IDENTIFY THE IMPEDIMENTS BEING EXPERIENCED IN EACH IEA COUNTRY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER AND TO EXAMINE NATIONAL AND COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME THEM. THE SLT BELIEVES THAT THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL USEFULLY COMPLEMENTS THE WORK PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND SUGGESTED THAT IT BE

CONSIDERED BY THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP ON AN URGENT BASIS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE NUCLEAR
WORK PROGRAM.

IN ACCEPTING THE WORK PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT,
THE SLT EMPHASIZED THAT:

-- FULL ACCOUNT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ON-GOING WORK UNDERWAY
IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA) AND THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR
FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) PROGRAM, TO ENSURE THAT
NECESSARY ACTIVITIES ARE ADEQUATELY CARRIED OUT BUT
NOT DUPLICATED;

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-- THAT THIS WORK PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PRE-
LIMINARY AND EVOLVING. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE NUCLEAR
SUB-GROUP SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FLEXIBILITY IN DECIDING
WHICH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE PRIORITY
ACCORDED THEM;

-- THAT TASK 6 IS MORE PROPERLY WITHIN THE MANDATE OF
THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD
HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORK, COORDINATING
WITH THE SLT AS APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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